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# Big Ideas “TED” Talk Session: Inspiring Innovation and Inquiry

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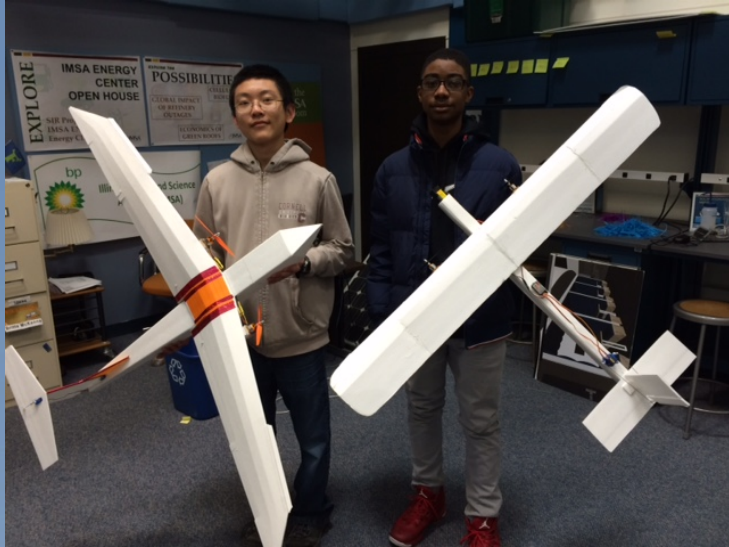
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# Student Inquiry: Educating the Next Generation of Innovators



## TechCon 2015





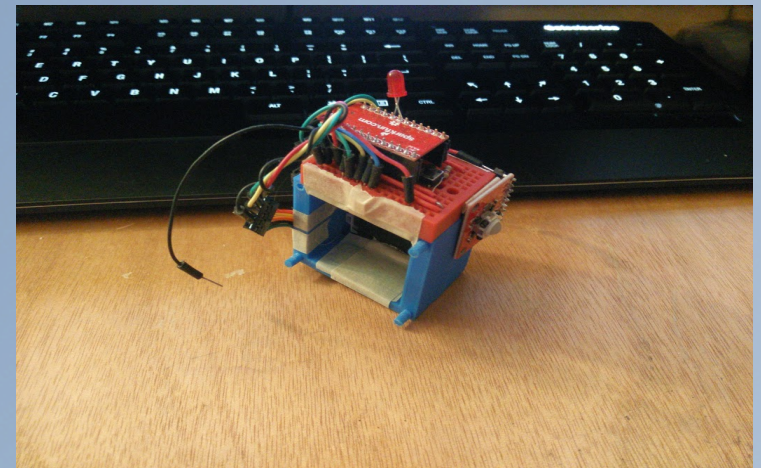
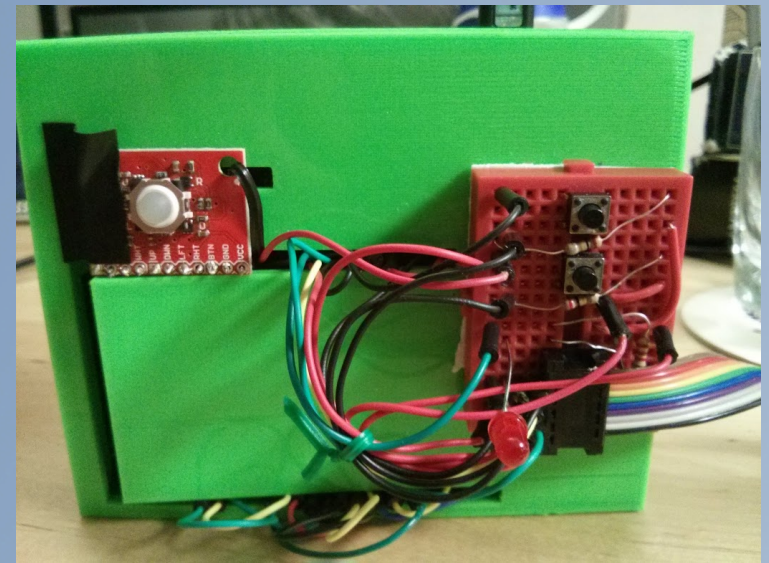
20% time: "I Days"  
Student Inquiry and Research

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20% time:  
Internships







20% time:  
Independent Study





**Sharon Zeng**

12 minutes ago · Edited

Allowed on Timeline

This past week I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most funny, cool, friendly, brilliant, awesome high schoolers ever. Thank you for a fantastic trip around the Bay Area. I'm sure I learned as much from all of you as you did about the tech industry (hopefully). Please continue to be amazing.

Also, many thanks to the friends that made the trip happen. I owe all of you so much: Britta, Summer, Kevin, Stephanie, Royce, Emily, Rajeev, Christopher, Rebecca, Claudia, Ben, Jasmine, Adam, Jeffrey, Peter, Kyle, and Jeff. — with Leon Wang, Shreya Shanker, Rhea Harsoor and 13 others.

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# Intersession

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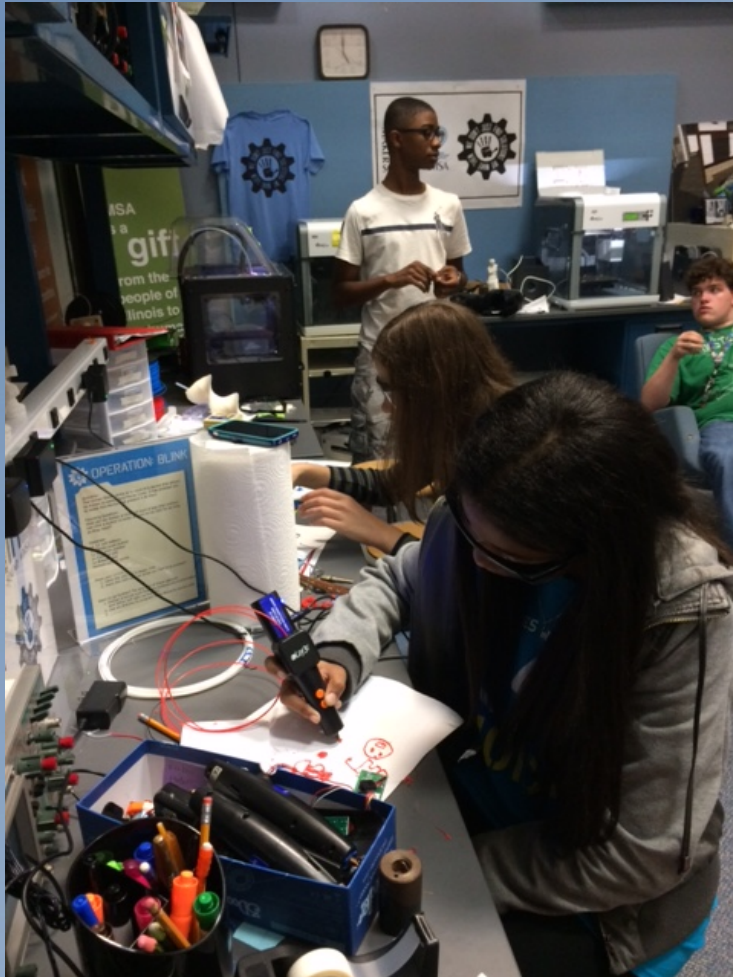


Student developed and  
led events- KanBan



# HOMAGO spaces

## Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out







Comfortable inquiry spaces 





Maker space open hours





“Try-it Tuesdays”



# BSA Aviation Exploring Post 579 SHEDD Design Challenge 2015





# Co-Curricular Inquiry IMSA Robotics

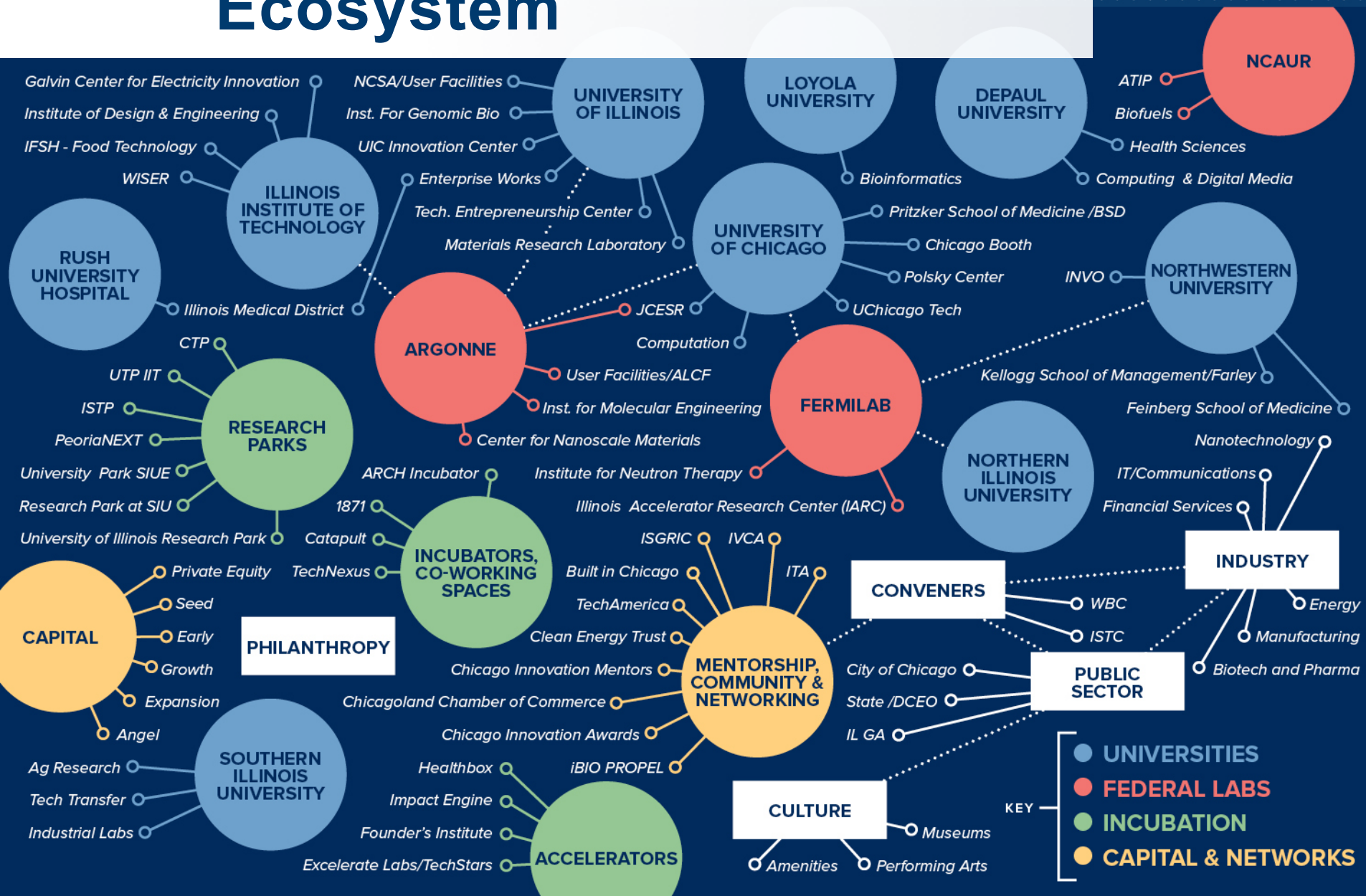




Mentoring opportunities  
First Lego League



# The Illinois Innovation Ecosystem



# In2

## Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry



News

### YouTube founder uploads million-dollar boost to Illinois alma mater

Posted: 01/22/2015, 01:47pm | Esther Castillejo



The IMSA Innovation Center is scheduled to open in 2016. [All renderings courtesy of Edelman.]

Long before YouTube co-founder Steve Chen made his fortune in Silicon Valley, he was a student at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora. Now, the tech entrepreneur is providing crucial funding for a \$1.9 million innovation center the school has been planning since 2008.

Chen's \$1 million donation in November 2013 covers more than half of the expenses for the 6,400-square-foot IN2 Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry, said Michael Abrahamson, a spokesman for the academy.

Expected to open in 2016, the facility will have space for IMSA students and others from the community to work together to take a concept and turn it into a viable business model, Abrahamson said.



YouTube co-founder Steve Chen has donated \$1 million to his old school, the Illinois Science and Math Academy in Aurora. | Getty Images

## A chat with IMSA students, Silicon Valley's future innovators



IMSA student Puja Mittal alongside renderings of the Aurora school's innovation hub, IN2. (Chris Reader, IMSA)

By **Wendy Donahue**  
Chicago Tribune  
[contact the reporter](#)

### SHARELINES

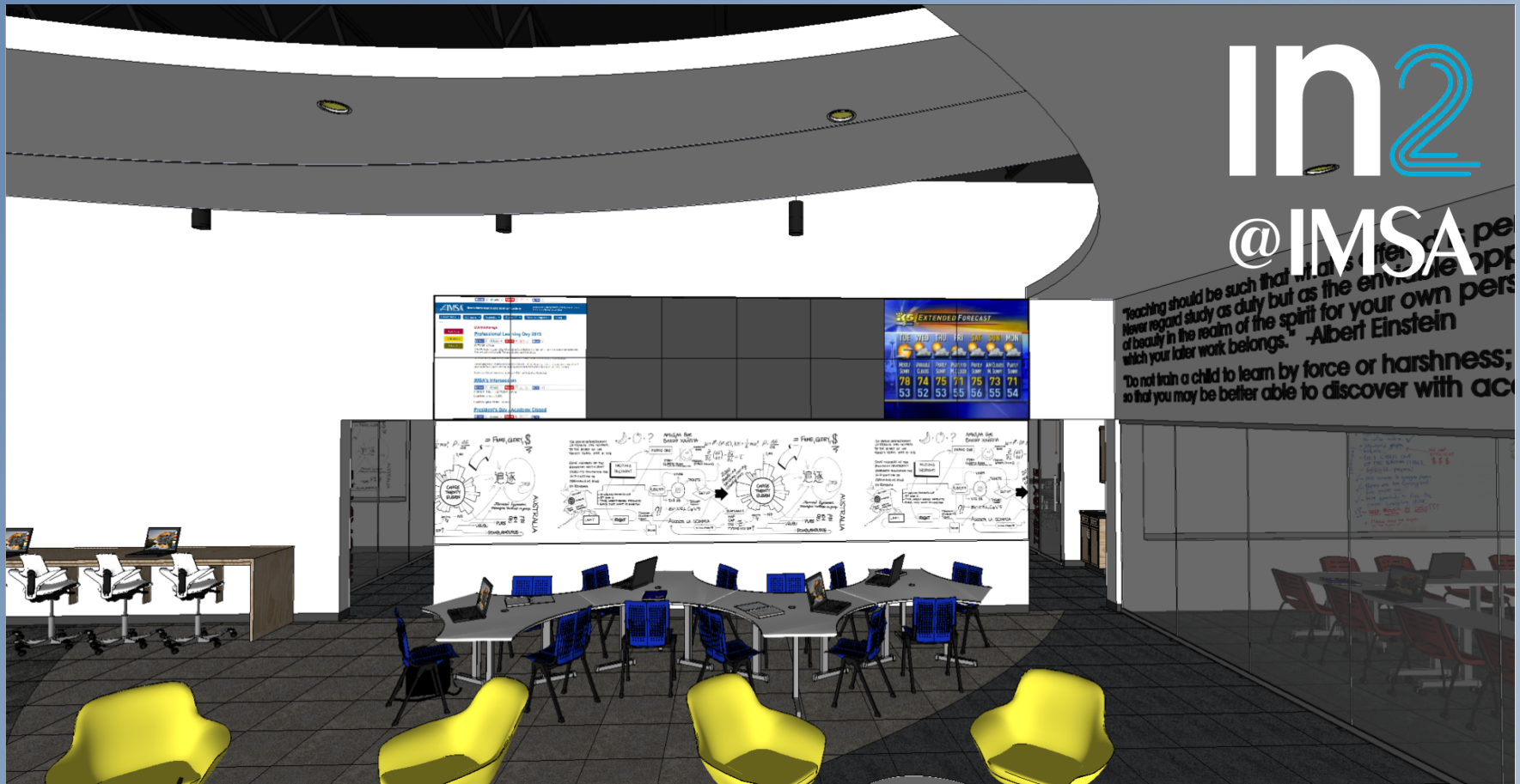
- Twitter: If you're curious, anything can be 'your thing,' says math and science whiz at IMSA.
- Twitter: 'What helped me the most was my time at IMSA,' YouTube co-founder Steve Chen says.
- Twitter: IMSA names innovation hub for YouTube co-founder Steve Chen, an alum of the Aurora math and science academy.

JANUARY 23, 2015, 1:13 PM

Cupcakes vanished faster than a megabyte of storage at the alma mater of YouTube co-founder Steve Chen on Wednesday, where hundreds of whiz kids massed to hear the name of the innovation hub that will be built from Chen's \$1 million gift to their high school, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora.

That hub — IN2, the Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry — will open next fall to nurture IMSA's next generation of Silicon Valley engineers and entrepreneurs.





In2  
@IMSA

"Teaching should be such that what is learned is not perceived as a duty but as the enviable opportunity of beauty in the realm of the spirit for your own person which your later work belongs." -Albert Einstein  
"Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; so that you may be better able to discover with ac"

Illinois' first secondary school Innovation Hub is opening at IMSA - fall, 2016



In<sup>2</sup>  
@IMSA

Innovation Hub interior  
Idea Bar



in2  
@IMSA



Innovation Hub  
Great Room



in2  
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IN2 Fieldtrips: DMDII

IMSA®





What if education looked more like inquiry exploration?

Wanna see more?

12:15 presentation

“Moving Education IN2 the Future:  
Creating the Next Generation of  
Innovators”

Learn more about plans for IN2  
Hear from IMSA Student